

Indians to get graded pay

AP, New Delhi

A contract dispute between India's top cricketers and the sport's national governing body will be partly resolved with the introduction of graded wage structures within six months, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president AC Muthiah said Monday.

Muthiah said the BCCI was keen to introduce graded pay scales — according to seniority and performance — before the end of the year, but the proposal has evoked a strong reaction within the board hierarchy.

"We're keen to reward players who perform well. Such financial incentives will encourage better performance," said Muthiah, who has vowed to bring about a new wage structure for cricketers this year.

The pay system "needs an in-depth analysis... We also need to look at the proposal for gradation on performance basis."

The demand for graded payments came from some key members of the Indian team, who also sought the introduction of a contract system existing in all top cricket-playing nations.

Five senior Indian players — led by skipper Sourav Ganguly and former captain Sachin Tendulkar — met BCCI representative Ratnakar Shetty in Bangalore during the national squad's training camp and to put across their views.

The contract system — which hasn't yet been adopted by the four Asian Test-playing nations — assures every contracted national squad player a minimum fee whether or not he gets picked for an international match.

The fees paid to the Indian players currently are based on the number of matches — Tests and one-dayers — played by them. No fee is paid if the player gets sidelined from any match due to an injury suffered while playing or practicing.

Cricketers are among the major draws as advertising models for endorsements and are ranked among the top money grossers in India.

Star batsman Tendulkar is one of the most expensive models in India and the world's highest-paid cricketer — his recent five-year contract is valued at rupees 1 billion (21.46 million dollars).

Muthiah, speaking by telephone from Madras, said a contract system might be feasible some time in the future, but not yet.

"We'd like to devise a contract system in the long run," he said. But the proposal has its detractors among leading cricket officials.

Punjab Cricket Association's secretary Mohinder Pandove flayed the graded-payment proposal, saying it would be detrimental to team spirit.

"Any form of graded payment structure is going to affect the team morale," Pandove said. "There are going to be complications. Graded payments will hurt the morale of young players and ultimately lower the team spirit."

"Such demands were raised in the past as well but were shot down. One wonders if any heed has been paid to the fact that long ago it was even decided to split all rewards equally among the Indian team members... Team spirit was paramount," he said.

Pandove said introducing a contract system will attract taxation problems for cricketers.

Contrasting comrades

Cricket

REUTERS, London

Andrew Caddick and Darren Gough have little in common, apart from taking wickets in each other's company.

In every other sense, they are oil and water.

As they proved again in the first Test victory against Pakistan at



ANDY CADDICK ... m-o-m

Lord's, however, where they shared 16 wickets, they are threatening to become England's most successful bowling partnership of all time.

Somerset paceman Caddick is a shy, beanie-wearing, happy-go-lucky on the edge of a crowd and whose early career was wrecked by self-doubt before he finally established himself as an England regular.

The barrel-chested Gough has never been anything other than Yorkshire hold-as-brass, the width of his smile matched only by the depth of his enthusiasm.

Their bowling styles, as well as their physiques, provide as much of a contrast.

England captain Nasser Hussain said: "They hunt in a pair but their characters are different. Everything about them is different."

They rub off each other. One is tall and swings away and gets bounce. The other is short and skiddy and exuberant.

"They are a pleasure to captain."

Caddick, relying on the steep lift afforded him by his 6ft 5ins frame, his away swing and his nagging accuracy in that no-man's land just short of a length, took the honours at Lord's, four wickets in each innings earning him the man of the match award.

Gough, quicker and more ready to innovate with changes of pace and line, did not give up centre stage easily.

A man built for expansive gestures, he became only the eighth Englishman to take 200 Test wickets as he enforced the follow-on with three wickets in four balls, removing Waqar Younis and Shoaib Akhtar with the last two deliveries to ensure his first five-for at Lord's.

That earned him a place on the roll of honour hanging in the Lord's pavilion.

"To get my name on the Lord's board, that meant more than the 200," he said. "That's there forever. I knew I had to get Shoaib with that last ball, otherwise Andy would have stopped me again."

Typically, a post-match news conference by the two on Sunday was largely dominated by Gough although the scorecard — the top three Pakistan batsmen in the first innings and three of the first four in the second — belonged to Caddick.

England supporters have to go back to Fred Trueman and Brian Statham in the 1950s and early 60s to unearth a more prolific pair of quick bowlers.

They, too, combined contrast-

ing attributes. Statham relentlessly accurate, seaming the ball and frustrating batsmen into taking a chance against Trueman's raw pace.

Those two played 35 Tests together, sharing 284 wickets. England won 13 and lost eight of those games.

Caddick and Gough now have 189 in 24 matches while in tandem, with 12 England wins and



DARREN GOUGH

five defeats.

Gough, at 30, and Caddick, at 32, have a few more years left to bridge the gap.

Waqar, perhaps, offered the greatest praise when he likened the partnership to the one he enjoyed with Wasim Akram in the early 1990s.

"It's like me and Wasim. They're getting it together as a pair," he said. "Caddick, especially, was extraordinary. He was getting bounce and kept the ball in the right place and we kept nicking it."

Australia alert

AGENCIES, Sydney

Australian vice-captain Adam Gilchrist said Monday he expected "one hell of a fight" for the Ashes after England routed Pakistan at Lord's on Sunday.

England took 16 wickets on the fourth day — the first was washed out by rain — to trounce Pakistan by an innings and nine runs with England seamers Darren Gough and Andy Caddick taking eight wickets apiece.

"We were getting the feeling over here, even before this, that England really had the wheels in motion and were going to give us one hell of a fight," Gilchrist said.

"Beating a good side like Pakistan in three days is, well, a fantastic effort whichever way you look at it, and it will give them a lot of confidence for the rest of the summer," Gilchrist was quoted as saying by Australian Associated Press.

"It should be a very good, hard competitive series and we're looking forward to it."

Victory over two Tests against Pakistan would be England's fifth series win in a row while Australia, triumphant in the last seven Ashes battles, hoped to bounce back after losing 2-1 in India.

Gilchrist said Australia needed to assert their dominance with the ball through pace bowling trio Glenn McGrath, Brett Lee and Jason Gillespie.

He said the result of the battle between Gough and Caddick and McGrath, Gillespie and Lee would be vital in deciding the outcome of the Ashes.

"It's going to be a matter of who can keep their bowlers fit over what is a very long tour, and then get them peaking at the right times," Gilchrist said.

"Caddick and Gough can obviously make the most of the conditions over there, but so can our bowlers."

England start the five Ashes Tests against Australia on July 5.

Australia are still ranked the top Test team in the world despite their recent loss in India, while England have won their last four Test series.

Safin in trouble

AFP, Dusseldorf

Marat Safin was embroiled in controversy as he was beaten 7-6 (8/6), 6-3 by Sebastian Grosjean of France at the World Team Cup on Sunday.

The Russian, who has a reputation for a short temper after destroying a record number of racquets, was given a game penalty as Grosjean led 4-3 in the second set.

The trouble started late in the first set as he smashed his racquet and he later fired a ball out of court and then banged the chair of American umpire Norm Chryst.

The game penalty left Grosjean serving for the match at 5-3.

A fuming Safin suggested afterwards that the umpire was anti-Russian.

"I think we were playing a great match, great points. Everybody was happy, and he destroyed the match completely," Safin said.

"If he has something against Russians he can just say it and not umpire us, because he had a problem last week with Kafelnikov and now against me he made me a penalty game. The guy is crazy. He has no clue about anything on the court."

Caddick

FROM PAGE 13

Total: (All out in 59.3 overs) 179
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-30, 3-67, 4-84, 5-87, 6-121, 7-122, 8-147, 9-167

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gough	16	4	40	3
Caddick	18	3	54	4
Sidebottom	9	2	26	0
Cork	15.3	3	41	3
Vaughan	1	0	12	0

Result: England won by an innings and nine runs.

Man-of-the-match: Andrew Caddick.

Next Test: May 31-June 4, Old Trafford.

Humble Hussain

FROM PAGE 13

England have now played 100 Tests at Lord's, winning 37, losing 24 and drawing 39.

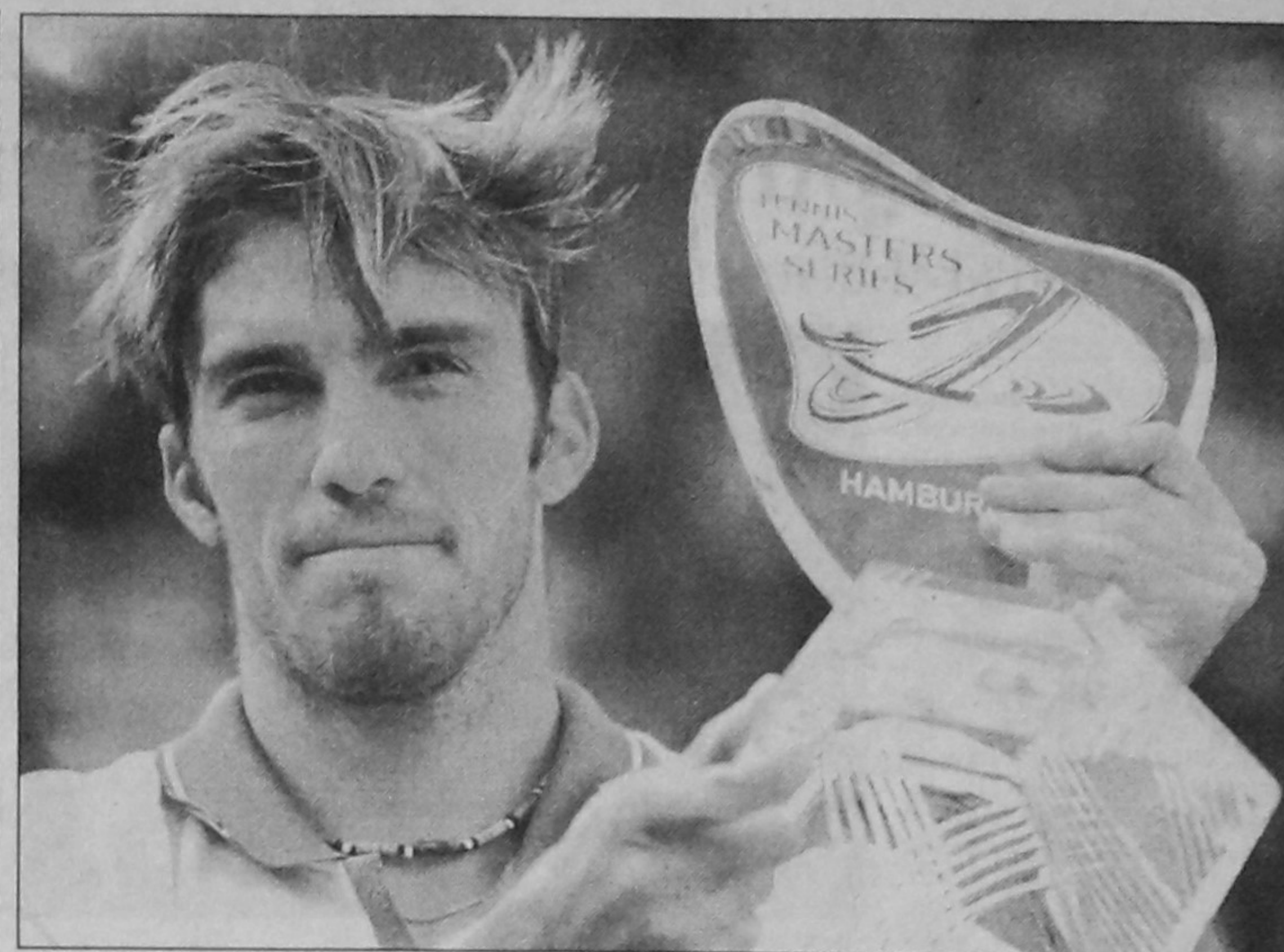
This was their first innings win over Pakistan since 1978 and Somerset star Caddick said England's performance with the new ball had been crucial.

"When the ball stays firm and hard you've got to get stuck in," he said.

"In the last 18 months Darren and I have bowled well together."

Gough took his 200th Test wicket in this his 50th Test match but what really pleased him was his five-for 61 that at last put his name on the honours board in the Pavilion.

"That means more to me than 200 — that's forever."



Spaniard Albert Portas holds up the winner's trophy after beating compatriot Juan Carlos Ferrero in the Hamburg Masters Series final on May 20.

Portas stuns Ferrero

Tennis

AFP, Hamburg

Spanish qualifier Albert Portas pulled off a huge shock Sunday to win the 2.95 million-dollar Hamburg Masters Series, beating heavy favourite Juan Carlos Ferrero in a five-set epic.

Eighth seed Ferrero had expected to become the first man ever to win the Rome and Hamburg titles back to back but instead faded at the last as fellow Spaniard Portas won 4-6, 6-2, 0-6, 7-6 (7/5) 7-5, to lift his first ever career title.

After the pair had split the opening two sets, ranked a modest 42 on the ATP Tour entry system to Ferrero's sixth, recovered brilliantly from a third-set lapse, Ferrero winning that set in just 22 minutes, to storm back and outlast a rapidly tired rival.

"It was unbelievable - the most incredible experience in my life," said Portas, nicknamed the "drop shot dragon."

"I knew it would be hard - but I did it," said the 27-year-old from Barcelona.

"It's my first title, my first

Masters Series and so Hamburg will always stay in my memory. It's the happiest day of my life."

Ferrero, nicknamed mosquito for his slender build, looked set to cruise to victory as he won the first seven points against Portas, who had lost the pair's two previous meetings in straight sets.

Instead, Andorra-based Portas, who won 400,000 dollars for his victory, completely turned the tables as the fuel began to run out of Ferrero's tank after a Tour-leading run of 16 straight wins.

Ferrero, who finally conceded the encounter with a backhand out wide on Portas' second match point, took home 211,000 dollars as runner-up, but this defeat will hurt badly as he prepares to launch a challenge to Gustavo Kuerten at the upcoming French Open.

Ferrero streaked 3-0 clear in the fourth set but Portas doggedly stuck to the task to level the third all-Spanish final here since 1996 at 3-3.

Suddenly, it seemed Ferrero was feeling the effects of his mammoth month as he began to look sluggish, a trio of double faults gifting Portas a break for a 6-

5 lead which sent Ferrero to his chair looking pensive.

Portas then netted a volley to allow a break. In the ensuing nerve-tingling tiebreak Ferrero cracked, double-faulting to throw away the set.

"When I had the 3-0 lead in the fourth I thought I was going to win," said a disconsolate Ferrero.

"I'm very sad - maybe I relaxed a little bit. I lost so much confidence. I was tired."

In the final set Portas saved three break points to move to 5-3 with a break, only for Ferrero to break back and hold for 5-5.

Undeterred, Portas brought through his serve as a Ferrero drop shot came back off the tape.

Ferrero then cracked again as Portas, having netted a forehand on the first match point, looked on with glee as Ferrero missed with his backhand attempt.

Despite his loss, Davis Cup winner Ferrero, who has won titles in Dubai, Estoril, Barcelona and Rome this year, has emerged as a key challenger to Andre Agassi's dominance of this season's ATP Champions Race. He currently lies second with 73 points to make up.

Imran spurs Pakistan on

Cricket

AGENCIES, London

Former Pakistan captain Imran Khan tried to boost the team's spirits on Sunday after they crashed to a humiliating defeat against England in the first Test at Lord's.

According to captain Waqar Younis, Imran reckons Pakistan are capable of a turnaround in the second and final Test at Old Trafford.

"He told us to stick at it," Waqar said.

"He said we could still come back in the second Test and that we had not been able to practise much before the game."

Waqar said there had been no harsh words in the dressing room after the innings-and-nine-run defeat at the ground where they won their previous two Tests in 1992 and 1996.

"We are very disappointed but there are no excuses."

"We played badly, we batted badly and we bowled badly, while



IMRAN KHAN

England did the opposite.

"Their bowling and catching was extraordinary, particularly Andrew Caddick — they kept on putting the ball in the right place and we kept on nicking it."

"The senior players will just have to talk it out," he said.

The second and final Test starts at Old Trafford on May 31,

before Pakistan take part in a triangular one-day series with England and Australia.

"I don't know much about the wicket since we haven't played there since 1992," Waqar added.

Pakistan caused a shock by leaving out off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq and leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed at Lord's but Waqar said: "I think we picked the right team because it didn't really spin at all. We just didn't apply ourselves."

"There was nothing in the pitch for the spinners," said the former Surrey and Glamorgan star but he hinted there might be changes for the Old Trafford Test.

"I don't know what the Old Trafford pitch will be like but I hear it might turn," said Waqar, suggesting that either Saqlain or Mushtaq might play.

NB v'ball

UNB, Dhaka

Holders Bangladesh Rifles beat Power Development Board 3-0 in the National Bank Metropolis Premier Division Volleyball League at the Volleyball court yesterday.

Div III cricket

FROM PAGE 13

Young Pegasus: 160 all out in 33.5 overs (Rosy 41, Johnny 23, Chandan 3/26)

Dilkusha SC: 162 for four in 33 overs (Tareq 54, Akhter 52, Rosy 3/27)

Result: Dilkusha SC won by six wickets.

Sangsad Plaza v Lalbagh Anwar SC

Sangsad Plaza: 94 all out in 23.5 overs (Hafiz 20, Sumon 3/16, Rajib 2/19)

Lalbagh Anwar SC: 97 for four in 19.3 overs (Sumon 23, Hossain 16, Jahangir 2/15)

Result: Lalbagh Anwar SC won by six wickets.

Shantinagar A v Prochay CC
Shantinagar A: 111 all out in 32 overs (Firaz 30, Safi 28, Samareh 2/14)

Prochay CC: 112 for four in 28.4 overs (Milan 39 no., Mamun 34 no.)

Result: Prochay CC won by six wickets.

Progoti SS v Hillol JS

Progoti SS: 155 for 9 in 25 overs (Raifan 32, Maksud 26, Tuhin 3/26)

Hillol JS: 156 for 7 in 25 overs (Badsha 32, Makbul 27, Ibrahim 24, Saikat 3/36)

Result: Hillol JS won by three wickets.

CCS Colts v BKSP

CCS Colts: 184 for 7 in 40 overs (Akram 52, Mehrah 53 no., Mazid 2/34)

BKSP: 144 all out in 37.2 overs (Shams 29, Raju 20, Sunny 3/28)

Result: CCS Colts won by 40 runs.

Dokic downs Mauresmo

Tennis

AFP, Rome

Yugoslavia's Jelena Dokic clinched her first major title here Sunday, defeating France's Amelie Mauresmo 7-6 (7/3), 6-1 in the final of the 1.2 million dollar Tennis Masters Series tournament.

The 18-year-old 14th seed, who dumped her Australian citizenship earlier this year to reclaim Yugoslav nationality, had surprised even herself by reaching the final in Rome on the clay surface she detests.

However, this was another fine performance by Dokic against in-form Mauresmo, seeded four, who last week won the German Open and she adds the 178,000 dollar first prize to the bank account controlled by her father and mentor Damir.

The first set was a close affair but Dokic took control in the tie-break to win 7-3.

Mauresmo had broken back immediately after the Yugoslav had made the first breakthrough to take the set to a decider.

The second set was the opposite as Dokic wrapped it up in little more than 20 minutes, breaking the Frenchwoman in the fourth and six games. In the later stages 21-year-old Mauresmo gave up the chase, refusing to move for balls that were played down the

line. Dokic sealed victory in the rain which had drizzled in the first set but became heavier in the later stages of the second.

This was Dokic's first ever tournament title at Masters Series or Grand Slam level although she had beaten clay court specialist Conchita Martinez of Spain for the first time in six attempts and this was her first victory over Mauresmo.



Yugoslav Jelena Dokic kisses the winner's trophy after beating Amelie Mauresmo of France in the Masters Series final in Rome on May 20.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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13 Funicello	50 Asimov book	7 "Politically incorrect" offerings	25 Send immediately
15 Pressure	52 Relaxed	8 Wanted poster	26 Singly
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17 Distort	55 Forest worker	10 — about (roughly)	30 B&B
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